

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR WISCONSIN BAY AREA COUNTIES

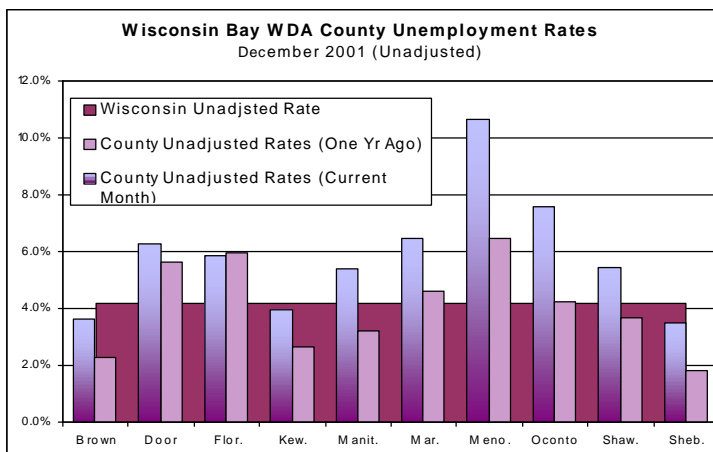
January 2002



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Unadjusted Unemployment Rates Decline in Four of Area's Ten Counties for December

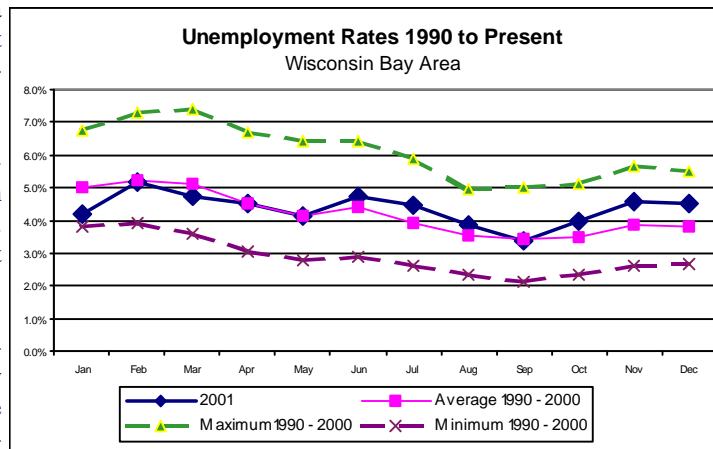
Four of the area's ten counties had their unemployment rate decline during December and one remained unchanged. While this does not mean that the economy has turned around, it is still relatively good news. Only three of the counties in the region had an increase in the number or workers unemployed from November to December. They were Door, Manitowoc and Oconto, each was up 100 from the previous month. These increases are in line with normal seasonal increases experienced in the Bay Area for the month, and actually are slightly lower than the normal monthly increase. This may be an indication that the rising number of unemployed has abated slightly.



During the month the unemployment rate for the region was unchanged at 4.5 percent from November. The Area remained just above Wisconsin's unadjusted rate of 4.2 percent which declined 0.1 of a percentage point. Seven of the area counties had rates above the State of Wisconsin's unadjusted rate. Only five of the counties in the region experienced an over the month increase. Florence County continues to be the only one county in the region with a decrease in the rate from last year, down 0.7 of a percentage point to 5.9 percent.

The average annual unemployment rate for the region in 2001 was 4.3 percent. This is up from 3.2 percent in 2000.

Although the number of unemployed increased by only 300 from November, the number of employed declined by 1,800 over the month as seasonal jobs ended. This coincided with a drop in the number of workers in the labor force. Seven of the area's counties had a decrease in their labor force levels, while three remained unchanged. During December the number in the labor force declined 2,000 to 345,500 from the November level.



Employment in the Bay Area remained above one year ago levels despite the decline in December. Part of the decline is due to seasonal patterns in the area. At this time the decline in labor force and employment seemed to be influenced as much or more by seasonal trends as it was by what is happening in the overall economy in the nation and world.

Typically, December has a high number of unemployment claims during the last two weeks of the month, surpassed or equaled in number only by claims during the third week of November. This year is not exception with initial claims of 13,397 from the Bay Area. This was about a 34 percent increase from last December. The high number of initial and continued claims normally begins to decline starting with the second and third week of January. A normal decrease in claims during this period would indicate that the economy may be starting to improve, while less than normal would indicate little or no direct improvement.

While we look for economic and employment improvement, it should be remembered that normally employment is slower to rebound than the economy is. This may be especially true in this recession, as it has impacted the manufacturing sector harder than other sectors. Wisconsin has the second highest percent of employment in the manufacturing in the nation. Indiana is the highest. Over the last twelve months Wisconsin's manufacturing employment has lost 35,000 jobs. This is a decline of 5.7 percent. In the Bay Area, manufacturing lost 1,100 jobs, a drop of 5.7 percent.

Northeast Wisconsin is a blend of counties having close to
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the highest and lowest percent of workers in goods production in the state, Sheboygan County at nearly 45 percent and Menominee County with only 2.4 percent in goods production.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged in both of the metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in the Wisconsin Bay Area. The rate in the Green Bay MSA was 4.3 percent,

the same as in the Sheboygan MSA. Both areas had unemployment rates above one year ago levels when they were at 2.7 and 2.2 percent respectively. The rate for the U. S. rose to 5.8 percent, while the rate in Wisconsin was unchanged at 4.7 percent.

For additional labor market statistics contact our website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi>.

Wisconsin Bay Workforce Development Area												
December 2001	Brown	Door	Florn.	Kewan.	Mantwc.	Marntt.	Menom	Oconto	Shawn.	Sheboy.	Region	Wisconsin
Civilian Labor Force*	144,100	14,900	1,700	10,800	46,100	22,000	2,200	17,000	19,900	66,800	345,500	3,035,200
Employed	138,900	13,900	1,600	10,400	43,600	20,600	2,000	15,700	18,800	64,400	330,000	2,908,700
Unemployed	5,200	900	100	400	2,500	1,400	200	1,300	1,100	2,400	15,600	126,500
Unemployment rate(%)	3.6%	6.3%	5.9%	3.9%	5.4%	6.5%	10.7%	7.6%	5.4%	3.5%	4.5%	4.2%
Total, all industries**	152,600	12,500	1,200	6,900	39,000	20,300	2,000	10,200	12,400	66,600	323,700	2,851,600
Construction & Mining	8,900	1,100	100	600	1,600	600	0	600	500	3,300	17,400	124,600
Manufacturing	30,000	2,500	300	2,200	14,300	6,900	0	3,400	2,600	26,500	88,700	576,800
Transportation & Public Util.	10,900	200	0	500	2,000	1,000	100	400	600	2,200	17,900	136,900
Wholesale Trade	8,500	200	0	100	1,300	700	0	100	400	2,100	13,500	137,000
Retail Trade	26,000	2,500	300	1,000	6,100	3,500	100	1,800	2,600	9,400	53,300	515,300
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	10,700	800	0	300	900	500	0	200	400	2,000	15,800	153,300
Services	39,700	3,400	100	1,200	8,300	4,600	0	1,700	2,500	14,400	75,900	788,100
Government	17,900	1,800	300	1,000	4,600	2,600	1,700	1,900	2,700	6,700	41,200	419,500
Change from previous month												
Civilian Labor Force*	-700	-400	-100	-100	-500	-200	0	0	-100	0	-2,000	-16,100
Employed	-400	-500	-100	0	-600	-300	0	0	-100	200	-1,800	-12,000
Unemployed	-300	100	0	0	100	0	0	100	0	-200	-200	-4,100
Unemployment rate(%)	-0.2%	0.9%	0.1%	-0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	-0.4%	0.3%	0.0%	-0.4%	0.0%	-0.1%
Total, all industries**	0	-400	0	0	-400	-100	0	0	0	400	-500	-5,000
Construction & Mining	-300	0	0	0	-100	-100	0	-100	0	-100	-800	-7,500
Manufacturing	0	0	0	0	-100	-100	0	100	0	100	-100	-3,200
Transportation & Public Util.	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200	600
Wholesale Trade	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-200
Retail Trade	100	-200	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-100	3,000
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	600
Services	100	-200	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	300	100	3,200
Government	-100	100	0	0	-100	0	0	0	0	0	100	-1,600
Change from year ago												
Civilian Labor Force*	3,100	200	0	300	1,100	500	-100	900	-100	400	8,100	27,100
Employed	1,100	100	0	100	100	100	-100	300	-400	-100	2,100	-10,300
Unemployed	2,000	100	0	100	1,000	400	100	600	400	-400	6,000	37,400
Unemployment rate(%)	1.4%	0.7%	-0.1%	1.3%	2.2%	1.9%	4.2%	3.3%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.2%
Total, all industries**	2,200	200	0	100	200	200	-100	200	-300	1,300	4,100	-11,500
Construction & Mining	600	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300	900	-1,200
Manufacturing	-200	-100	0	100	100	-100	0	0	-100	-800	-1,100	-35,000
Transportation & Public Util.	100	0	0	0	100	100	0	0	0	200	400	-400
Wholesale Trade	800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	800	-2,700
Retail Trade	-200	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-100	200	100	1,200
Finance, Ins., & Real Estate	-500	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	-400	2,900
Services	1,000	100	0	0	0	200	0	0	0	1,300	2,500	13,800
Government	600	100	0	0	0	100	-200	100	-100	100	800	9,900

* Includes participants residing in area. ** Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Totals may not add due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers. NFWS data is benchmarked to 3/2000

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Direct questions and comments to: **Richard Seidemann, Regional Labor Market Analyst**, Sheboygan County Job Center, 3620 Wilgus Avenue, Sheboygan, WI 53081 920-208-5809 920-459-3845(FAX) E-mail: seider@dwd.state.wi.us